

DISCOVERY

BROOKS
CITY-BASE
A Technology and Business Center

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 29, No. 8 - Friday, April 22, 2005 - Brooks City-Base, TX

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

Multimedia manager earns AFMC's SNCO of the year

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Master Sgt. David Riggs added further credence to the old saying "small town boy makes good" as the Air Force Materiel Command recipient of the U.S. Air Force Communications and Information Professional of the Year Award for 2004 in the Senior NCO category.

Sergeant Riggs, who is the Multimedia Services manager for the 311th Communications Squadron, earned the honor on the strength of



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso

Master Sgt. David Riggs

his work here and during a five-month TDY tour to Headquarters, Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base.

"It's the highest award I have received in my career field," says Sergeant Riggs, who is a senior visual information technician. His Brooks predecessor, Master Sgt. Brent Squires, won the same award in 2001.

Winning this honor is the latest achievement in a string of recent accomplishments for Sergeant Riggs who has been selected for promotion to Senior Master Sergeant. Ironically, he is the only member of his family to have pursued a military career.

He was born in the western North Carolina community of Mount Airy on which "The Andy Griffith Show's" fictional TV town of Mayberry was based. Actor Andy Griffith, who starred as Sheriff Andy Taylor in the 1960s sitcom, grew up in Mount Airy where most of Sergeant Riggs' family still lives.

After graduating from Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C.,

See SNCO of the Year/7

Nobel laureate visits Brooks, shares story of DNA discovery

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Dr. James Watson, recipient of the 1962 Nobel Prize in physiology, made his first visit to San Antonio April 5 a memorable one when he shared with the Brooks community how he, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins discovered the structure of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).

"I don't know why I became so famous with only an IQ of 120," Dr. Watson quipped, eliciting roars of laughter from a packed auditorium crowd in Building 180 during his lecture titled "My Life With DNA."

Dr. Watson's unprecedented trip here, hosted by the Air Force Research Laboratory, was made possible by Capt. Phil Tobin, an AFRL Human Effectiveness Directorate physician's assistant assigned to the Radiofrequency Radiation Branch.

After witnessing Dr. Watson's molecular biology presentation in January at a medical education conference in Houston, Captain Tobin invited the eminent scientist to Brooks. "I phoned him at Cold Spring Harbor (Laboratory) and he said yes," Captain Tobin said.

The Nobel laureate appeared at home and in good spirits among the throngs of Brooks scientists and other members of the Brooks community who flocked to see the 76-year-old legend, considered by the scientific community to be one of the greatest scientists of the 20th century.

Born in Chicago in 1928, Dr. Watson earned a Ph.D. in zoology from Indiana University. He conducted his Nobel Prize-winning research while serving as a Harvard University professor.

"Until age 18, I thought I was going to be a naturalist in the tradition of (Charles) Darwin," admits Dr. Watson. During his

junior year at the University of Chicago, he became interested in the structure of life at the molecular level. His interest in genetics, however, blossomed while conducting research at Indiana University. "I was working with viruses (then). DNA was likely to carry genetic information, but no one knew what the DNA structure looked like," Dr. Watson said.

He knew that English physicist Maurice Wilkins had taken x-ray pictures of DNA that indicated it had a structure. According to Dr. Watson, Wilkins was initially not interested in the idea of discovering DNA's structure. Cambridge University scientist Dr. Francis Crick, however, was fascinated with the idea. "I knew no chemistry or physics, but I asked the question 'What did DNA look like in three dimensions?'" Dr. Watson said.

See Dr. Watson/7

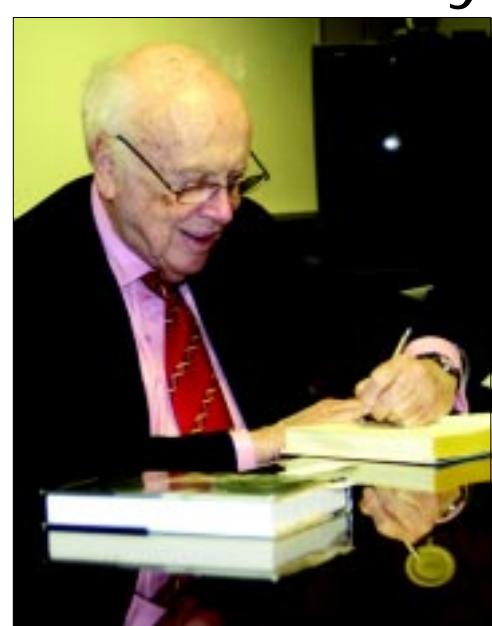


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Nobel Prize winner Dr. James Watson takes time from his schedule to autograph his book during a recent visit to Brooks City-Base.

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE



Former Brooks air evac techs — Page 10



Shattered Dreams — Page 13



Intramural softball kicks off — Page 14



The Discovery is published by Prime Time Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the United States Air Force, under exclusive contract with Brooks City-Base, Texas.

This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of the Discovery are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the United States Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or Prime Time Corp. of the products or services advertised.

Everything in this publication is edited, prepared and provided by the 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs Office of Brooks City-Base. Material for the Discovery should be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted to 311HSW/PA, 2510 Kennedy Circle, Brooks City-Base, TX 78235-5115 by noon the Wednesday prior to the week of publication. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Articles may also be submitted by fax by calling 536-3235 or by e-mail.

Articles may be submitted by email to Kendahl.Johnson@brooks.af.mil or to Discovery@brooks.af.mil.

The Discovery is published every other week on Friday. Contact the editor at 536-5141 for more information.

Discovery advertising

Deadline for display advertising is noon the Friday preceding the publication date. To advertise in the Discovery, call 675-4500 or send advertising copy to Prime Time Military Newspapers, P.O. Box 27040, San Antonio, Texas 78227.

Discovery Editorial Staff:
 Brig. Gen. Tom Travis
 311th Human Systems Wing Commander
 Larry Farlow
 Director of Public Affairs
 Kendahl Johnson
 Editor — kendahl.johnson@brooks.af.mil
 Rudy Purificato
 Chief Writer — rudolph.purificato@brooks.af.mil
 Elizabeth Castillo
 Staff Writer — elizabeth.castillo@brooks.af.mil

Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder
 Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.
 Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Discovery logo by Arlene Schirmer



Sylvia Black, Publisher
 Pia Goodman, Prod. Mgr.
 Pat McCain, Classified Mgr.
 Diane Bohl, Sales Manager
 Sherry Snoga, Account Exec.
 Brandy Davis, Account Exec.

Advertising
 (210) 675-4500
 FAX:
 (210) 675-4577
 E-mail:
 sblack@txdirect.net

William A. Johnson
 President
 Gregg R. Rosenfield
 Senior Vice President Sales and Marketing



Community Newspapers:
 North San Antonio Times — Northside Recorder
 Bulverde Community News — Southside Reporter
 The Herald
 Military Newspapers:
 Fort Sam Houston News Leader
 Lackland Talespinner — Kelly USA Observer
 Medical Patriot — Randolph Wingspread
 Brooks Discovery
 Specialty Publications:
 Daily Commercial Recorder — Que Pasa!
 S.A.Kids
 Graphics & Printing Services:
 Prime Time Graphics
 Christopher Press (Web printing)

The Discovery is online.
 Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>

COMMENTARY



Today's Airmen serve generations yet unborn

By Maj. Joel Fortenberry
 509th Contracting Squadron commander

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. -- Leon Alton Palmer was born April 27, 1945, in Mableton, Ga., the son of Nelly and Arvel Palmer. On Aug. 17, 1968, Sgt. Leon A. Palmer, C Company, 3rd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, was killed in Gia Dinh Province, South Vietnam. He was 23 years old and left behind a daughter, Linda, and son, Tony.

Over 8,000 miles away on that same August Saturday, I was born in Tyler, Texas. I was born free and have known nothing but freedom for all 36 years of my life.

On Sept. 15, 2003, Army Staff Sgt Kevin C. Kimmerly, of North Creek, N.Y., was killed when his vehicle was hit by a rocket propelled grenade while on patrol in Baghdad. Later that same day, far from the chaos of Iraq, my son was born in Dayton, Ohio. He was born free and has known nothing but freedom for all 19 months of his short life.

Because you serve today, on the flight line or off, in

a flight suit, BDUs or civilian clothes, a child whose name you may never know was born free. Because you repaired a network or guided a convoy, because you corrected a personnel record and made sure Airmen were paid, because you stood watch at the base perimeter, because you built a base exchange facility in the desert, because you wrote the contract and repaired a runway, because you flew a mission or repaired the aircraft with unmatched skill and expertise, a child was born free today.

What an honor and privilege we have in this Air Force and this nation to ensure freedom is the birthright to new generations of Americans. Because of you, a child was born free today in Tyler, Texas; in Dayton, Ohio; in towns all over this country. But also because of you, children were born free today in cities called Kabul and Bagram, Baghdad and Tallil. Freedom isn't earned and its survival isn't guaranteed. Rather freedom is given to us by the grace of God and the character of those willing to sacrifice all to see it live on. Those like Leon Palmer, Kevin Kimmerly and you. Thank you.

Brooks Airmen visit AFJROTC

By Senior Master Sgt. Mike Walljasper
 311th Human Systems Wing

Recently, five of our young Airmen from Brooks City-Base visited Det 949, AFJROTC, located at Southside High School. Major Gregory Stamps, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, invited A1Cs Araya, Braley, Novak, Richards and Zamora out to share some of their Air Force experiences with his cadets.

The questions were many and varied from the cadets, but most centered around what type of training they had experienced and what type of environment they currently live in. Our Airmen were quite candid about their experiences thus far, particularly Basic Military Training. When they told of their "first haircut" experience, some of the high school cadets cringed; but when they described their current living conditions on Brooks, most looked pleasantly surprised. Our Airmen also warned the cadets to stay free from trouble if they were considering making the military their choice after high school-- because recruiting standards are tough.

After the "Basic Training" war stories, many cadets

related that their Leadership School, held in the summer at the University of Texas, San Antonio, had many of the same experiences. Leadership School attendance, they explained, is by selection only and reserved for JROTC members who show the potential to lead. As the cadets swapped stories with the active duty Airmen about similar training experiences, you could see the confidence rise in the cadets who are considering military service.

One young lady, Cadet Ruiz, was selected to attend Leadership School this past summer after only one year in the AFJROTC program. Judging by her rack of ribbons and the respect she gets from fellow cadets, she's already become a good leader and hopefully will continue her leadership in the Active Duty Air Force.

If you've been in a while, you've heard the adage "We're all Recruiters." That is so true. Just wearing this uniform proudly in the community might spark a young person to want to be a part of us.

Many in the room stuck out as leaders — like Cadet Ruiz — just waiting for their chance to "Cross Into the Blue" and excel in the best Air Force in the world.

Mentorship, training essential to mission success

By Col. Dawn Wheeler
 United States Air Forces Europe Inspector General

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — At a fighter base back in the 1980s, we got goal days based on the number of sorties each aircraft flew every month. Known as utilization, or UTE, days, people were given the day off if the wing did well.

One day, the wing commander came to a staff meeting and told us a story of a young captain who had come to see him to complain.

The captain didn't think the wing finance office should be closed on a UTE day; since finance members had nothing to do with the aircrews getting their day off, he felt it was unfair. The commander agreed to look into the matter and invited the captain to the weekly staff meeting.

During the meeting, the commander began going around the room asking questions, starting with the finance. "Would you be as eager to fly if finance didn't see to it that you were paid?" the wing commander asked the captain. Then, turning to me, he said, "Or if the major didn't see to it that your plane was secured where you left it, what would you fly?"

Calmly, the commander went completely around the room asking simple but penetrating questions as he mentored us that day, letting us know that it takes everyone, from the Airman on the flightline to the commander's support staff to keep the mission going. And, it takes each of our core capabilities to accomplish that mission.

As the inspector general team travels around, I am

constantly struck by the motivation, enthusiasm and dedication of the troops. What we find lacking is training. Not the just-in-time training to get specific jobs done, to deploy, or engage in combat, but, rather, the core capabilities training to be able to perform their primary jobs to the best of their ability.

A wing commander recently told me that having to take the time to get back to basics had actually been good for the unit. He said the troops walked taller and approached life with more confidence than he'd seen in a long time.

I have always concurred with the theory that when you "sweat more in peace, you bleed less in war," and we accomplish that by providing quality in-depth training and proper equipment to our troops.

While much of what we do is determined by the day-to-day operations tempo, we need to take time out periodically to get back to basics.

Troops, drag a chief out for a cup of coffee and pick his or her brain about something you remember from technical school but have never actually performed.

Chiefs and senior non-commissioned officers, have a "troop" call at the end of a busy week, and talk to your people about some perhaps-forgotten technical aspect of your job. Small informal get-togethers are a perfect time to impart information long unused, brainstorm new initiatives and recall and dissect recent incidents that could have gone better with a bit more preplanning.

Our Airmen are without a doubt the world's finest, and we owe them the mentorship and training needed to hone their skills.



Commanders gather to assess command's performance and planning

By Ron Fry
HQ AFMC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE — With an emphasis on Air Force Materiel Command's performance and strategic planning center, wing commanders from across AFMC met for the AFMC Spring Commander's Conference April 5 – 8.

The commanders were updated on AFMC's strategy for attaining its goals which are: provide opportunities for career development and progression while sustaining a healthy, fit and ready workforce; operate quality installations; organize and provide resources to improve the command's accountability while at the same time increasing effectiveness; develop and transition technology to maintain air, space and information dominance; and develop, field and sustain war-winning expeditionary capabilities on time, on cost. Also, the leaders were briefed on how the command is performing in its effort to reach its goals and how it measures its performance.

"We've come a long way in attaining our goals," Gen. Gregory S. Martin, AFMC commander, told his commanders. "And I believe our measures are developing nicely and will pay off in the years ahead. I'm impressed with all the hard work you and your people have done."

In addition to focusing on strategies and mission progress, commanders discussed several topics, including the ongoing restructure of the centers, the fiscal 2006 funding outlook, transformation, the upcoming round of base closures and realignments, and AFMC Reserve and National Guard status.

Commanders were updated on the command's emerging Wingman culture along with a variety of other personnel issues ranging from AFMC's civilian wellness program to how leaders can write better performance reports on their military subordinates.

"I challenged our commanders to do all they can to help our people be the best they can be professionally, physically and spiritually, and to let them know they are darn good at what they do for our Air Force each day," said General Martin.

The commanders were given insight on how the new Afghan military establishment is learning to accomplish the acquisition and sustainment missions. Maj. Gen. Craig P. Weston, former vice commander at AFMC's Electronic Systems Center, briefed the group about his experiences serving as chief, Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan, U.S. Central Command in Kabul, Afghanistan. While deployed there, it was his job to oversee the establishment of logistics and

acquisitions systems that will sustain the fledgling Afghan military establishment.

General Weston praised several AFMC people who worked on his staff in Afghanistan. "I don't know what we would have done without them. They were small in number, but really made a difference in helping create an Afghan defense force that will enable that country to have a secure, democratic environment."

The commanders were also treated to a presentation by Brig. Gen. Erv Lessel, deputy director of plans and programs at HQ AFMC. General Lessel recently returned from a six-month deployment to Iraq where he served as deputy chief of staff, strategic communication for Multi-National Forces – Iraq. His duties included planning efforts to distribute news about Coalition successes and to counter misinformation put out by opposition forces. He served

as the lead spokesman for Coalition forces and conducted more than 100 interviews with major news media outlets from around the world.

Other highlights of the conference were former college coaching great Lou Holtz, who delivered a motivational speech to the commanders, and a surprise visit by local U.S. Congressmen Dave Hobson and Mike Turner, who praised the efforts of AFMIC and its people.

RECENT PROMOTEES



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

The most recent group of Brooks City-Base promotees was honored at a ceremony at the Brooks Club on April 1. This month's promotion ceremony takes place April 29 at 3 p.m. at the Brooks Club.



CONGRATULATIONS TO BROOKS CITY-BASE'S ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS



Senior Airman
Antonia Cruz
Airman of the Year



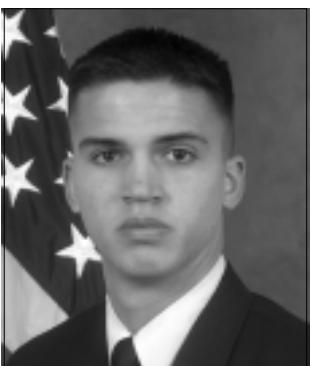
Tech Sgt. Angela Newby
NCO of the Year



Senior Master Sgt.
Kevin Reid
SNCO of the Year



1st Lt. Heather Heeren
CGO of the Year



SrA Grayson Gokee
Honor Guard
Member of the Year



Master Sgt. Cindy Riley
First Sergeant
of the Year



Stephanie Toll
GS 3-5



Cynthia Fleming
GS 6-8



Roy Conatzer
GS 9-11



Kevin Leachman
GS 12-13



Jose Valadez
NAF Manager



Dennis Chapoy
NAF Technician



BROOKS BRIEFS



Brooks' AFAF donations exceed expectations

Participants in Air Force Assistance Fund campaign has gone above and beyond the Brooks City-Base goals and achieved success through tremendous participation and donations.

In a briefing on April 19, it was announced that Brooks' AFAF had the second highest percentage of monetary funds. Reaching 156 percent of their monetary funds goal, Brooks exceeded their goal of \$25,392 by \$14,213 and earned a total of \$39,605, with that number still growing as some funds are still being donated.

In addition to exceeding expectations on monetary funds, Brooks' AFAF held the highest percentage rate of all the AFMC by achieving 56 percent in active duty participation.

"It was definitely a community effort, and our active duty, civilian counter parts, retirees and reserves all kicked in to make this program successful," said Capt. Maureen Farrell, the 311th Human Systems Wing AFAF representative from the U.S. Air force School of Aerospace Medicine.

Brooks Fiesta golf tournament

Register now for the Brooks Fiesta Golf Tournament, which will be held at Pecan Valley Golf Club on May 23. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$45 per person, which includes cart, green fee and lunch. To register, call Ed Shannon at 536-5140 or 383-5597.

Shiftwork scheduling workshop

A Brooks-sponsored workshop presents nine shift-work scheduling principles and their rationale, and shows how to make principle-based, quantitative decisions about nine structural components of a shiftwork plan and schedule. The workshop takes place June 9 from 8 to 11:30 a.m.

The workshop is designed primarily for practitioners who are associated with shiftworkers and their schedulers. Some scientists may be interested in attending to help them structure testable hypotheses about investigations of shiftwork. The cost of the workshop is \$25.00. To register go to www.brooks.af.mil/AFRL/HEP/HEPF/Shiftwork_Workshop/.



Multimedia Services launches several initiatives

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

A major shift in how Multimedia Services conducts business has produced several changes for Brooks customers since this 311th Communications Squadron organization held a base-wide conference in February.

The creation of the first Multimedia website for customers is among several new initiatives it has launched, part of an internal transformation to enhance efficiency that is directly related to meeting Air Force missions.

"Multimedia is transitioning from a support mission-oriented organization to an operational mission-oriented organization. What this means to you (customers) is that it is shifting its priorities to provide services dedicated to supporting your core Air Force missions," said Col. Laura Alvarado, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander, during her multimedia conference keynote address.

"We had a great exchange of ideas on how Multimedia can partner with organizations from a support role to an operational role," said Master Sergeant David Riggs, Multimedia Services manager, referring to conference attendees. Since then, Multimedia has continued its Brooks community outreach to educate customers on what services are available to them.

The Multimedia website was specifically created to improve customer service, Sergeant Riggs noted. He said, "Customers now have access to an archive of tools such as rank insignias, certificate and program templates, organizational badges, retirement checklists and various base photos. Our customers now have the tools needed to do their own administrative and managerial support. This allows Multimedia resources to be focused on operational mission needs."

This initiative is linked to Multimedia's new priority-based work order system. The four-tiered system replaces the traditional "first come,

first served" system. Top priority goes to Public Affairs, investigations and the Legal Office, followed in descending order by unit core missions, ceremonies and administrative support.

"Traditionally, multimedia has served two distinct markets. The first market, base support, included things like ceremonies, event documentation, photos for award packages and informational signs. The second market, combat/operational support, included things like deployments, documentation of field conditions and activities, in-theater presentations/teleconferencing, battle damage assessment and information dissemination," Sergeant Riggs explained.

He said the Air Expeditionary Force culture has changed the focus on how Air Force members should conduct business. This new focus, combined with dwindling resources and staffing, have contributed to changes in Multimedia support. "Multimedia needs to be integrated with activities that enhance core missions.

At Brooks, this would include activities such as training, research, education and operational initiatives," the Multimedia manager said.

For the past two months, the Multimedia staff's customer outreach campaign has included briefings at base newcomer orientation meetings and at monthly government purchase card holder training sessions.

"We explain the approval process for multimedia items, such as digital cameras, projectors, editing systems and high-end photo/graphics printing," says Sergeant Riggs. This consultation is designed to prevent multimedia-related purchases from being made that do not meet customer needs.

The Multimedia website can be accessed through the Brooks Homepage by clicking on Multimedia Service listed under Hot Topics. Users can also log on to the site at: <http://www.brooks.af.mil/abg/sc/scs/scsv/>. Sergeant Riggs explained that once customers are logged on, they can download information to their computer and open up files using PowerPoint.





Fieldstone
3 x 12



BRIG. GEN. TOMTRAVIS
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

ACTION LINE

536-2222

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851	Military Personnel.....	536-1845
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Military Pay.....	536-5778
311th Mission Support Group – Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
Safety.....	536-2111	Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
Housing Office.....	533-5905	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
59th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366

Dr. Watson visits Brooks

Continued from page 1

By knowing its shape scientists would begin to understand how it functions, they proposed.

By 1952 the Crick-Watson team was competing with chemist Dr. Linus Pauling in a race to discover DNA's structure. Their research led to the discovery that the DNA molecule has a double helix shape, similar to a gently twisted ladder.

During his visit to Brooks, Dr. Watson witnessed some groundbreaking Air Force scientific work that is directly linked to his pioneering research. Among the Brooks venues that hosted Dr. Watson was the Air Force Institute for Operational Health's Epidemiology Laboratory.

Researchers there use virus 'DNA fingerprinting' techniques to help develop flu vaccines in support of the World Health Organization. He also visited AFRL's newly created Biotechnology Integrated Research Team headed by Dr. Patrick Mason. This group is involved in biomarker research related to directed energy exposure.

Dr. Watson also visited the Challenger Learning Center, as well as the Air Force Aeromedical Evacuation Museum where the Brooks Heritage Foundation hosted a lunch for him.

SNCO of the year

from page 1

with a bachelor of arts degree in communications, Sergeant Riggs joined the Air Force in 1986 as a graphics specialist. He later earned a master of science degree in human resource management from Troy State University.

Since his assignment to Brooks in 2003, Sergeant Riggs has crafted a reputation for supporting customer needs. He earned his latest honor on the strength of several initiatives. Among them was his video teleconference support to the AETC Strategic Information Panel, and his visual information work that supported a Rand Corporation study that identified pilot training differences in Middle Eastern and Asian countries.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Mondays — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

A VA representative will be at Brooks weekly. Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records, or one-on-one consultations. Bring a copy of your medical records.

SMOOTH MOVE

Tuesday — 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537

PCSing? Hear briefings from TMO, Legal, Clinic, Finance, Housing, and the Family Support Center and ask YOUR questions! Open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses. Overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by staying after for the PCS Overseas class.

SPONSOR TRAINING

May 10 — 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537

In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend.

Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT

May 18 — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered are Pre-Separation, Veterans Benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE, and Financial Planning for Transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

FEDERAL JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP

May 26 — 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

Learn the ins and outs of navigating the Federal Job system. Bring your most recent resume and vacancy announcements or job advertisements you have found. Bring a list of courses you have completed in any recent college or other educational program. This workshop also includes a briefing from Civilian Personnel office.

Call 536-2444 to register



Brooks community urged to update emergency data

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Calling 911 from a Brooks City-Base telephone line may not necessarily get you quick emergency service if your phone number has not been updated in a new computer data base system. That is why a telephone data base maintainer here is urging the Brooks community to help update the system so that city emergency services can be dispatched to the right person and place in time.

Elaine Slansky, a web technical application developer for General Dynamics here, has been working around the clock to ensure that the Brooks telephone data base she is tasked to maintain is 100 percent accurate. While great progress has been made, there is room for improvement.

"It's important to check the Global Address List to make sure the phone number is correct where you are at. It could be a matter of life or death," she said. She has discovered numerous mismatches on the GAL, a potential problem at Brooks because the city of San Antonio now provides emergency police, fire and ambulance services.

"Before (City-Base), if you (Brooks customer) called 911 it would be immediately switched to Security Forces personnel who responded to the call first," she said. Now 911 calls go directly to the city emergency dispatcher. "The dispatcher sees your address on the (computer) display. The address is based on billing information," she says.

Problems occur when the data base is not updated after Brooks customers have switched offices or

left the base for another assignment, or when phone lines have been transferred. "It was a real eye-opener for me. How do they (dispatchers) know where to send the police or ambulance," she said. There have been some instances, she noted, where emergency services have been dispatched to Building 619, home to the private telephone switch for Brooks where office phones are routed.

Thanks to an Air Force initiative in 2002 to standardize phone data base services, new technology is giving system monitors such as Ms. Slansky greatly enhanced capabilities to identify and correct data errors.

"I've loaded every single phone number on base with a 536 prefix (in the new system). I upload changes every week on Monday mornings," she says, referring to adding new lines or removing those that have been disconnected. She also compares base phone numbers with the GAL. In January she made a startling discovery. "There were 300 names on my database that were wrong. They didn't match up with the GAL." That number drastically improved to only 19 mismatches in February. The goal is to achieve zero mismatches.

To do that, she and telephone technicians responsible for telephone work orders, need backup assistance from base customers. "Call the Help Desk to tell them that you are moving to a new building or transferring a line," she said. She explained that no one should assume that telephone changes have been expeditiously made, given the fact that a life or death emergency can happen at any time.

For more information, contact Ms. Slansky at 536-2827.

Court-martial panels and the military

By Capt. Rhea Lagano
311th Human Systems Wing/JA

On April 26th, Law Day will be celebrated in commemoration of this year's theme "The Jury." In the military justice system, instead of a jury with jurors, we have a court-martial panel with court members.

If you are an active duty member, you may be detailed to sit as a member of a court-martial. Court members serve essentially the same function in a military court-martial as jurors serve in civilian trials. How do you get chosen as a court member on a panel?

Congress, through the Uniform Code of Military Justice, specifies which commanders and officials possess the authority to convene a court-martial. A commander who possesses the authority to convene a court-martial is known as a Convening Authority.

The CA convenes a court-martial by issuing an order stating that charges against an accused servicemember will be tried by a specified court-martial. This order is called a "convening order" and designates the type of court-martial (summary, special or general) that will try the charges and may designate when and where

the court-martial will meet. For special and general courts-martial, the convening order will also designate the members of the court-martial panel.

The CA initially details the panel members to the court-martial. As required by Congress in Article 25, UCMJ, the CA must choose members who are best qualified to serve based on their age, education, training, experience, length of service and judicial temperament. However, it is the accused's choice whether he or she will be tried by a panel of officers, a combined panel of officers and enlisted members, or by the military judge sitting alone.

Similar to civilian juries, court-martial members are officers or enlisted persons from the same community or command ("jury of peers") as the servicemember on trial. In civilian communities, serving on a jury is a duty of citizenship, and local court officials will summon citizens to serve as jurors. In the military, the commander assigns members to serve as jurors, and that becomes their primary military duty.

Just as with civilian jurors, court-martial members must be impartial and may make no decisions about a case until the military judge directs them to begin deliberations. Each

side — prosecution and defense — gets a chance to ask the court-martial members questions to ensure that members are impartial. If a court-martial member's impartiality is brought into question, or if it is otherwise inappropriate for that member to serve on the court-martial, the military judge will dismiss him or her, as would a civilian judge.

As is done in civilian courts, the prosecution or defense may also remove a court-martial member "peremptorily," meaning without a stated reason. In military practice, both the prosecution and defense are afforded one peremptory challenge. Also, like a civilian defendant, except in a capital case, a servicemember on trial may decide to have the judge decide his guilt or innocence, rather than court-martial members.

Law Day is an opportunity for all Americans to celebrate and enjoy our freedoms. The jury or court-martial panel is the embodiment of democracy. We entrust juries and court-martial panels—small bodies of ordinary men and women—with decisions that involve the liberties and property of defendants. In doing so, we confirm our faith in the ability of people to make just and wise decisions and that is the very definition of democracy.

DISCOVERY ONLINE

www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery



A LOOK at BROOKS

What is your favorite
Fiesta event and why?



Staff Sgt. Kevin Mahoney
311th MSG



SrA Lucas Hofstra
311th MSG

El Mercado because there
is plenty of good food.



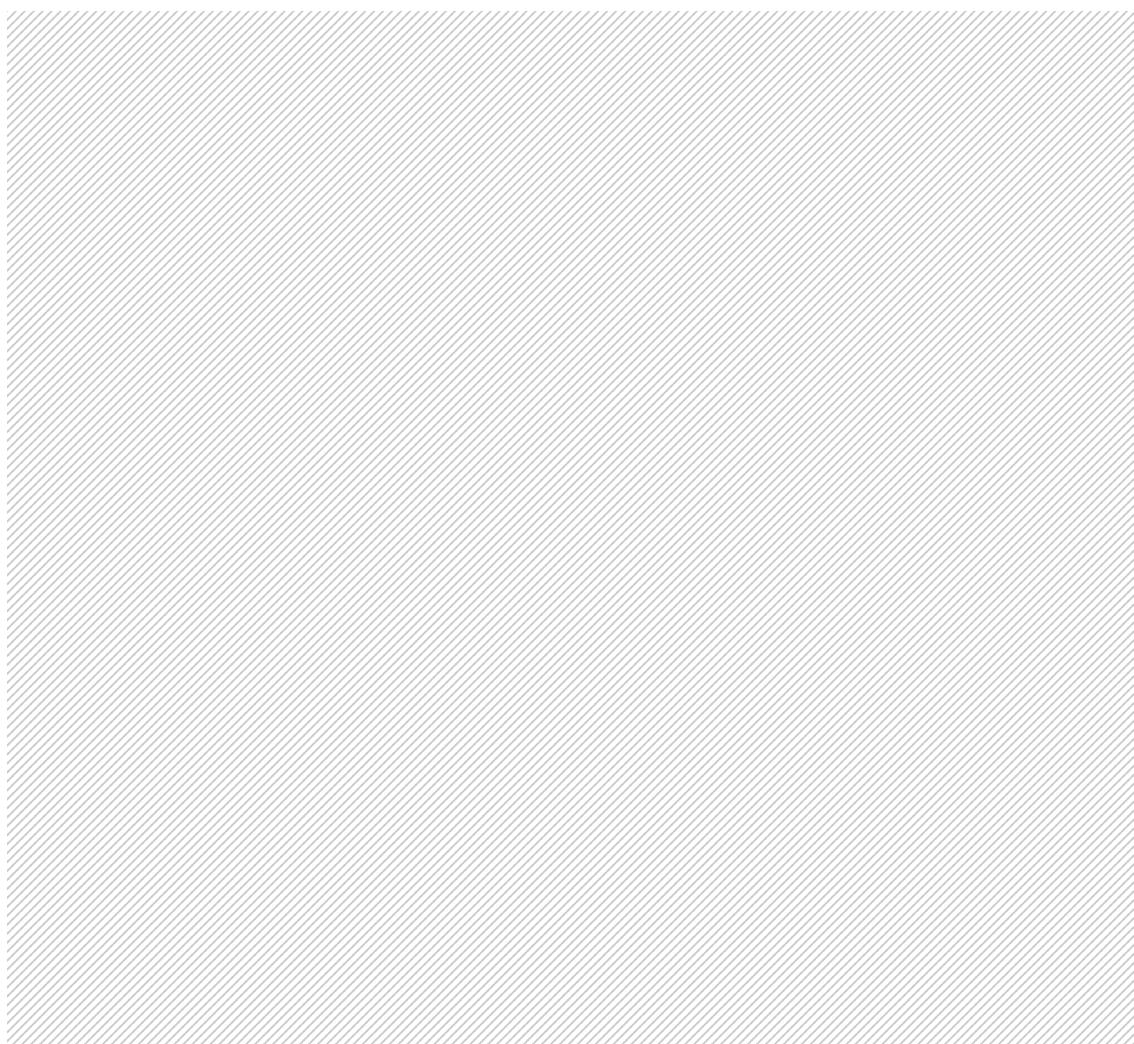
Rosalinda Valle
AFMSA

The Oyster Bake because it
has good food and music.



Jo Ann Montoya
USAFSAM

It was La Semana Allegre,
I liked all the different
bands, and because my
auntrran a puffy taco stand,
it was a family event.





Former Brooks air evacuation techs recall 'missions of mercy'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

While the Korean War raged, two Brooks AFB aeromedical technicians fought their own battles with an insidious enemy more than 50 years ago by transporting victims during the world's worst polio epidemic.

Lowell Mullins and Ben Craig recalled their stress-filled time as members of the Brooks-based 1736th Air Evacuation Squadron during a mini-reunion here earlier this month at the Air Force Aeromedical Evacuation Museum.

"It's the first time we've seen one another since we were stationed here in the early 1950s," said Mr. Mullins, 72, of La Vernia, Texas. Mr. Craig, 73, from Topeka, Kansas, added, "It's the first time back (here) for me since 1954."

They spent part of their reunion with their wives looking at old photos and artifacts in the museum, including a portable 'iron lung' machine used to transport polio victims.

"We transported a lot of wounded soldiers from the Korean War as well as polio and tuberculosis patients," said Mr. Mullins, who retired in 1971 as a Senior Master Sergeant. He and Mr. Craig recalled the general feeling of most polio patients who were apprehensive about being transported in the portable iron lung machine. Besides being confining, these machines operated on battery power when moved from fixed medical facilities to awaiting air transports such as the C-47, C-131 and C-54.

Mr. Mullins and Mr. Craig, who arrived at Brooks in 1951 and 1952, respectively, were part of Air Force aeromed-

ical evacuation history. They and their colleagues would aid in the care of countless patients paralyzed by the devastating viral disease poliomyelitis. At the height of the polio epidemic in 1952, nearly 60,000 Americans contracted the crippling disease that claimed more than 3,000 lives that year.

Their Brooks unit operated out of a hangar that today is Building 1150, home to the 68th Information Operations Squadron. In 1954, the 1734th Air Evacuation Squadron moved from Kelly AFB to Brooks and merged with the 1736th.

"We flew feeder flights from Texas to Arkansas, Louisiana and South Dakota," said Mr. Mullins. He explained that they transported many tuberculosis patients to Fitzsimmons Army

Hospital in Denver, Colo. That facility was one of five general hospitals that the 1736th served. Among the others were Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Part of their job was to transport patients great distances through a network of routes using a variety of aircraft. "We had some harrowing experiences," admitted Mr. Mullins who recalled transporting a premature baby who later died.

"One time we picked up a member of the Rockefeller family in Bogotá, Columbia. He had contracted polio (there)," said Mr. Craig, a retired veterinarian. The Air



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Ben Craig (left) and Lowell Mullins examine an 'iron lung' at the Air Force Aeromedical Evacuation Museum at Brooks City-Base. These retired Brooks aeromedical evacuation technicians used iron lungs to transport polio victims in the 1950s.

Force was tasked with this 'mission of mercy' because it had the only air-worthy, portable iron lungs in the country. Mr. Craig remembers that the Rockefeller family paid the Air Force \$500 an hour to transport one of their own from South America to Boston in 1954. He survived the week-long trip, but died two weeks later, Mr. Craig said.

"Our most famous patient was the son of World War I flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker. His name was William," Mr. Mullins remembers. They also recall being witnesses to Air Force aeromedical evacuation history. Mr. Mullins noted, "We received (into our unit) the first male

nurses to enter the Air Force. They came here in 1954."

This milestone event was part of the evolution of Air Force aeromedical evacuation. In 1942, Army Air Corps Surgeon General David Grant conceived the idea of using military cargo planes to transport combat casualties. He created the air evacuation service, manning it with the first flight nurses trained in 1943 at the Army Air Force School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Army Air Base in Louisville, Kent. By the 1960s, flight nurses and aeromedical evacuation technicians were being trained here at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

AFCEE first recipient of Public Agency Award

By Gil Dominguez

AFCEE Public Affairs

The Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence has won the Public Agency Award presented for the very first time by the Society of American Military Engineers.

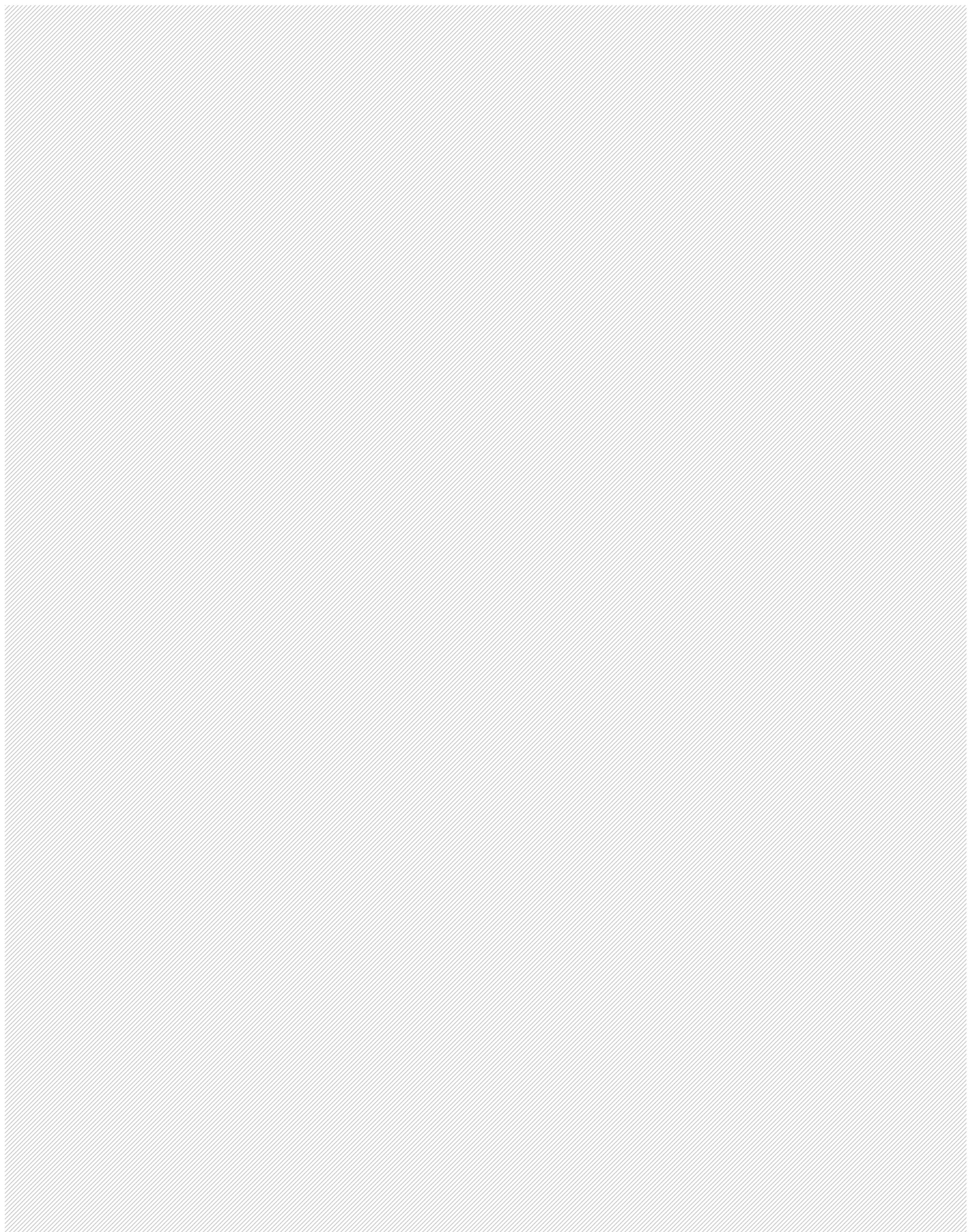
Based in Alexandria, Va., SAME is a professional organization that includes members from all the military branches as well as the public and private sectors.

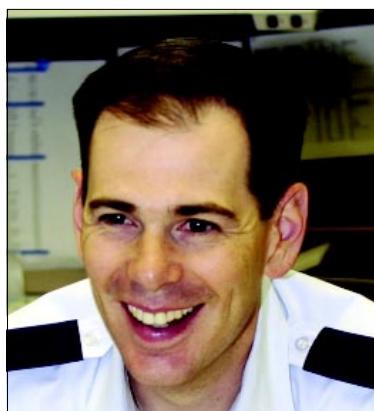
The honor will be awarded annually to a field organization that has "rendered the most eminent and notable contribution to the Society," said SAME executive director Dr. Robert Wolff.

The formal presentation of the 2004 award will be made at the Honors Ceremony May 19 during the 2005 Joint Engineer Education and Training Conference and Expo to be held in Louisville, Ky., May 17-20.

"I wish there was some way to cut this award into 400 individual pieces so every member of our organization could share in this honor," said AFCEE director Paul Parker. "Without the hard work and dedication of the AFCEE men and women who serve our Air Force and our nation, this recognition would not have been possible."

"I will be proud to accept this prestigious award on their behalf," he added.





SANCHEZ

Q&A

FULL NAME/RANK:
1st Lt. Jason Sanchez

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Executive Officer,
311th Human Systems Wing

**IN SIMPLE TERMS,
WHAT DO YOU DO?**
I take care of the needs of Brig. Gen. Tom Travis so he can focus on the day-to-day mission of the wing. I try to ensure that he has everything he needs, even before he thinks he needs it.

BIRTHDAY:
Oct. 26, 1971

HOMETOWN:
Mexico, Maine

FAMILY STATUS:
Married (Doreen) with three children (Joseph, 10, Angelina, 4, and Amarra, five months)

PERSONAL MOTTO:
"Treat others as you would like to be treated."

HOBBIES:
Sports, movies, bowling, poker, coaching sports.

PET PEEVE:
People who can't make a decision

I JOINED THE MILITARY BECAUSE:
I wasn't ready to commit to college, and wanted to travel and get an education.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:
Have my masters degree completed, make major with a highly competitive record, and continue to spend quality time with my family

ULTIMATE GOAL:
Retire at 50 and stay retired, raise my three children as productive members of society and send each to college, and live in a house on the beach!

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:
My family

Commander's Wingman

Brooks
Personality
PROFILE

Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.



By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery editor

Many people enter the Air Force with a clear cut plan. Some of those follow their plan meticulously, while others are continually changing it throughout their military careers. For one Brooks lieutenant, the Air Force started as a four-year prelude to college, but it has become a successful life-long career.

1st Lt. Jason Sanchez started his military journey in a small town in Mexico, Maine. Following his 1990 graduation from Mountain Valley High School, he started weighing his options. The big industry in town was the paper mill. "I knew if I wanted to stay in Mexico and make any money, I'd have to work in a paper mill and I really didn't want to do that," Lieutenant Sanchez said.

He also considered going to college, but that option wasn't appealing either. "I knew I wasn't ready for college," he said. "I would have just been wasting my mother's money, which she didn't have a lot of."

Considering he didn't like his first two options, he decided to visit an Air Force recruiter. He came home that same day and announced to his mother and younger brother that he had joined the Air Force. His initial plan was to serve for four years, then go to college. Little did he know that success as an Airman would later cause him to reconsider.

After six weeks of basic training and five weeks at Keesler Air Force Base for technical training as a personnelist, he shipped off to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. There he was hand-picked to help stand-up the 67th Fighter Squadron Orderly Room. Next, he was assigned to Plattsburgh Air Force Base. When Plattsburgh was closed during the 1995 round of base closures and realignments, Lieutenant Sanchez was sent to Randolph AFB to work in the personnel center.

But it was at Plattsburgh that Lieutenant Sanchez decided to change his initial plan of separating after four years. His career had really taken off. He had received several accolades – including Senior Airman Below-the-Zone at Kadena, and Personnel Specialist of the Year and Airman of the Year honors from Plattsburgh – and his future looked bright. So he reenlisted, but decided to readjust his career plans within the Air Force.

"Once I decided I was going to stay in the Air Force, I knew I needed to get my degree and become a commissioned officer." He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Wayland

Baptist University and in June 2001 became a second lieutenant.

While he was stationed at Randolph, Lt. Sanchez met his future wife, a San Antonio native. They were married in 2000. So when he was commissioned, he wanted an assignment in San Antonio so his wife could finish nursing school. He was hired to work at Brooks City-Base in the Human Systems Program Office (now the Human Systems Group).

After three years with the HSG and a six-month stint as the deputy financial services officer in the finance office, he was hired to his current position as the executive officer for Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, commander of the 311th Human Systems Wing. It's a career broadening position, and a job that is providing Lieutenant Sanchez with invaluable experience.

"I work directly for General Travis to make sure he gets what he needs so he can focus on the mission and needs of the wing every day," Lieutenant Sanchez said. "General Travis is a great supervisor and a great commander. I have learned a lot from him in the eight months I have been here. As an officer, it has only benefited me to have this great experience."

Lieutenant Sanchez said that although Brooks may not be as big as Lackland or Randolph, the mission isn't less stressful or meaningful, which keeps him busy. "Brooks is a special place with a very unique and important mission. It's a fast-paced job, but I am getting a great breadth of experience."

Lieutenant Sanchez said that in addition to the experience, another benefit of the position is being able to see how things operate at the top of the Human Systems Wing. "When you are at the base level, you see the little things you handle, but you don't always see how you affect the big picture, or understand how and why certain decisions are made. You may not always feel that the wing leadership knows what you are doing or how their decisions affect your work. Here, you see

the big picture and you get to see how those decisions are made daily and how they affect the entire wing. That's really what it's all about, making the best decisions for the wing and our mission.

"It's a pleasure working for a leader like General Travis. I see his thought process and the things that he goes through day to day. Every decision is based on how it will affect the mission and people of Brooks. I've learned a lot from that."

The position requires long hours and at times can be very intensive, but his quality of work has not gone unnoticed. "Lieutenant Sanchez brings with him so much background, both in personnel and finance, plus prior enlisted," General Travis said. "He's about as good an executive as a wing commander could have."

Although the job keeps Lieutenant Sanchez very busy, he has learned to balance the job with home life and still finds time to spend with his family. His son Joseph is almost 11 years old and has started playing tackle football and the lieutenant has taken on the responsibilities of coaching for the past five years. He also enjoys playing with his four-year-old daughter Angelina and newborn daughter Amarra. "Family is important to me. I enjoy being involved with my kids. You have to make family a priority and be able to balance the mission with your family life," he said.

He will PCS in July and hopes to go somewhere good for his family. He is searching for a position as a financial services officer, a job that will help his career continue to climb.

"I look forward to getting back to a base with an active flight line, some planes and more of an operational-type atmosphere, but I will definitely miss the people and unique mission here at Brooks," he said. "There are some great people here who work long, hard hours. They are very friendly, very intelligent and very caring. I will also miss San Antonio. It's a wonderful area to be stationed."



'shattered dreams'

Brooks EMEDS instructors provide education to high school students

By Elizabeth Castillo
Discovery writer

Brooks is remaining active in the community by participating in a service dedicated to educating teens about the effects of drinking and driving.

On Feb. 28 and March 1, Brooks' personnel participated in the "Shattered Dreams" program at Madison High school. The participating Expeditionary Medical Support instructors helped stage a mock car crash and also applied makeup and special effects on students to help bring awareness to a possible end result of driving under the influence of alcohol.

"We believe this is a great opportunity for the EMEDS staff as well as USAFSAM to show its support of the local community and the Airman Against Drunk Driving," Staff Sgt. Jerry Gomez said.

Sergeant Gomez and Staff Sgt. Rudy Palacios have been active in the "Shattered Dreams" project for over seven years. They first began participating while working with one of the projects founders, Sherri Demmer, at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base.

Upon being stationed at Brooks, both Sergeants Palacios and Gomez have remained involved in the project, and have actively recruited other personnel to assist in the numerous demonstrations. Master Sgt. Bob Durkin, Staff Sgt. Shalien

Edmonson, Staff Sgt Joseph Guerrero, and Tech. Sgt. Chris Valadez participated in the "Shattered Dreams" project for the first time at Madison.

Through the participation in this project, Brooks' remains involved in the community and has even received an award for their participation. Sergeants Gomez and Palacios and Master Sgt. Richard Madrid were given the yearly TAB's project Stop Alcohol Violations Early award in 2004.

The "Shattered Dreams" two-day program involves a mock car crash and "living dead" on the first day, and a mock memorial on the second day. During the memorial, the parents of the students and the students who were "killed" read a letter they have written regarding their loss and what they were never able to say while that student was alive.

A mandatory debriefing is scheduled for all parents and students who were involved in the project. The students then attend a retreat in which they are able to discuss the effects of their involvement and talk about their personal experiences.

The student body, which usually involves entirely both the junior and senior classes, is brought out to see the end results of a the fatal car "crash" as the fire and police departments and even a team from Air Life Rescue race to save the "injured" students.

"People were actually crying," said USAFSAM's Sergeant Guerrero, referring to students' reactions to the mock car crash.

Shattered Dreams is performed year round at participating high schools all across Texas and its popularity has spread throughout the nation, and is even going world wide. The most desirable time for volunteers and schools to present the project is during the spring semesters, where many "end of the year" events like prom and graduation can result in students becoming more susceptible to the dangers of drinking and driving.



In addition to the Brooks volunteers, teams from the police and fire departments and the Air Life Rescue unit work to add more realism to the staged event.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

USAFSAM's Staff Sgt. Joseph Guerrero applies makeup to a Madison High School student volunteer as part of the "Shattered Dreams" program. The student is one of several crash 'victims.'

We believe this is a great opportunity for the EMEDS staff as well as USAFSAM to show its support of the local community and the Airman Against Drunk Driving.

Staff Sgt. Jerry Gomez
U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine



EMEDS instructor Staff Sgt. Jerry Gomez applies face paint to a student who is playing the part of a crash fatality.

According to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, in 2000 every 20 minutes someone in Texas was injured or killed as the result of drunk driving. During the first day of the two-day project, a "Shattered Dreams" student volunteer dressed as a "Grim Reaper" pulls participating students individually out of class every 20 minutes. Those students are now labeled the "living dead," their faces painted white, and are unable to communicate with anyone for the rest of the day.

Immediately following the "Grim Reaper" is a state trooper who gives the class a death notification of the student, and a counselor who reads an actual obituary that has been written by the student and their parents.

Madison High School senior Yesenia Rodriguez was a "living dead" participant in the recent demonstration. Ms. Rodriguez recalls that her main reason for becoming involved in the "Shattered Dreams" program stems from her life being affected as a result of an alcohol

related accident. Ms. Rodriguez's best friend was dragged nearly four blocks after being struck by a drunk driver during Christmas vacation. Yesenia's friend is fortunately still alive, and the drunk driver was charged and sent to jail.

"When I saw her in January she was all bruised, and it really hurt me seeing her how she was" Rodriguez said. "When I signed up for 'Shattered Dreams' I could express myself in the retreat, and during the event."

Brooks' involvement in the "Shattered Dreams" program impacts not only the students of the schools involved, but the parents, teachers, faculty and the surrounding population.

Through this, Brooks remains active in the concern for the safety of residents in San Antonio through education, demonstration and leading by example.

"It's dear in heart to me because I grew up in San Antonio," Sergeant Gomez said. "We believe that this is a great opportunity to support the local community."



A group of instructors from USAFSAM's Expeditionary Medical Support group look on to watch as the drama of the mock crash unfolds.



Softball rivals 'reload' for 2005 intramural season

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

They are both loaded with talent and have a burning desire to win it all. They are also on a collision course with one another for a championship showdown as the 2005 Brooks intramural softball season gets underway this week.

While no 'blood feud' exists between them, the Human Systems Group and the combined Air Force Research Laboratory/Air Force Institute for Operational Health teams figure to be 'at each other's throats' during the regular season and into the playoffs.

Last year, HSG won the league championship with a 6-0 record. That perfect season morphed into a post-season nightmare when second-seeded AFRL/AFIOH beat HSG 13-10 for the base crown.

"We lost to them last year, but we have most of our team returning," said HSG player-coach Steve Yelverton.

While the league balance of power doesn't appear to have

shifted, the veteran HSG club is considered a favorite to repeat as league champs. They will defend their crown against five other league opponents that include the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, an Army squad, AFRL/AFIOH and two teams from the 68th Information Operations Squadron.

League play started April 19. Games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. and noon. The season ends in June, followed by a post-season, double-elimination base championship tournament in mid-July.

"We've got the core of the team from last year, and we've picked up some new players who are also on the base team," said Yelverton, himself a base varsity team first baseman.

Yelverton did not admit to believing in jinxes, but his club is loaded with second year players that make prognosticators ponder a team 'sophomore jinx.' HSG plans to field basically the same infield from a year ago with Bill Holl at second, Jeff Povolish moving from short to third, Yelverton at first and Luis

Quintana as catcher. Justin Darwin or Wendell Toney could play shortstop, Yelverton says, but he plans to take a look at two new varsity team players, Anthony Tillman and Casey Walterscheid, who can play either the infield or outfield.

The main changes for HSG will be in

the outfield. Gone are slingers Ken Chandler, Doug Ferrata, Shane Lewis and Don Brooks. Right centerfielder Jose Ramirez returns along with last year's player-coach Phil Welch.

The pitching staff remains the same with veteran right-handers Al Burnett and Jeff Eden.

"We won last year on base hits, not homers," said Yelverton, noting that the team basically hits



Photo by Kendahl Johnson

Several teams squared off this week, as the softball intramural season kicked off. Games are played Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. and noon.

liners and hits to the gaps.

That can also be said for their nemesis. The difference between them is that AFRL/AFIOH has a long history of winning the big games. While not dominant in league play, the defending base champs have become a legendary force in the postseason. They have won eight consecutive base championships. The streak started in

1997 when the club was known as the Armstrong Laboratory.

"We have three or four rookies, but most of the players from last year's team are back," said player-coach Warren Benge. Returning veterans include second baseman John Connolly, Rob Taylor, Ty Richards, Travis Tucker, Dean Kim and pitcher Rob Alcorte. Justin Murphy and Frank Torres also join the squad.

Base varsity softball team eyes title

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks men's varsity softball team recently accomplished something no previous squad had done in years. They won their first two games of the pre-season. Should this club transform itself into a 'team of destiny,' they'll also become the first Brooks varsity softball squad to win a championship.

Considered by some of its returning veterans as a better team than last year's club, this 2005 edition has a long way to go to prove that they are legitimate contenders instead of pretenders.

"Our strength is our hitting. We're basically a base hitting team," said assistant coach and player Warren Benge. Under new head coach Jack Connolly, the team

finished third at the Castillo's tournament in San Antonio last month. They played well against some tough military and civilian teams, including the 343rd Security Forces squad from Lackland AFB and the San Antonio Shooters based at Fort Sam Houston.

However, the players know they have their work cut out for them if they are to fulfill their potential. Some of the team's former stars are gone, including slingers Marty Baugher, Ken Chandler and Junior Jarreau.

A core of veterans return including outfielder Rob Taylor, shortstop/outfielder Travis Tucker, first baseman Steve Yelverton, infielder Justin Darwin, designated hitter Billy Nevis and Benge, who is a first baseman-outfielder.

Rookies include Navy corpsman Justin Vendola from South Bend, Indiana who plays third base; Air Force Institute for Operational Health second baseman Frank Torres from Los Angeles, Calif.; 311th Mission Support Group outfielder Frank Hayden from Tuskegee, Ala.; and Texas Christian University alum Casey Walterscheid, a 311th Human Systems Wing Contracting Office catcher-third baseman.

Other newcomers include Human Systems Group outfielder Jose Ramirez and shortstop Anthony Tillman, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine pitcher Louis Martinez and AFIOH outfielder Justin Murphy.

The new-look team, loaded with 'seasoned' rookies, plan to play in the annual Band Aid Tournament to be held May 19-23 at Little Rock AFB, Ark. The team begins regular season play in June competing in a city league.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The Brooks men's varsity softball team takes batting practice in preparation for the upcoming season.

Fitness center reinforces AFI policy

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks Fitness Center is reinforcing an Air Force policy that is designed to safeguard the health and well-being of dependent children.

Air Force Instruction 34-266, Table 1.1 provides age restrictions involving the use of Air Force fitness centers. The AFI's guidance, Air Force officials say, limit certain age groups from using specific equipment and training areas at fitness centers.

"Children are welcome here with their parents. However, for certain ages, the weight room and cardiovascular equipment is off limits to them," said Roy Conatzer, Brooks Fitness Center director.

The AFI prohibits dependents 13 years old or younger from using cardiovascular equipment and weight rooms. They are allowed to use basketball and racquetball courts provided there is interactive supervision from a parent, legal guardian or youth program staff member.

Youngsters who are 14 or 15 years old can use weight rooms and cardiovascular equipment as long as they are being supervised by either a youth program staff member, coach, parent or legal guardian. They have unrestricted access to basketball and racquetball courts.

According to the AFI, no restrictions on the use of fitness center equipment, training areas and basketball and racquetball courts apply to dependents who are 16 years old or older.

"We're trying to educate parents and the Brooks community that these restrictions are not a local policy, but are an Air Force policy," Mr. Conatzer said. He explained that the policy was established to prevent potential injury to younger dependents.

"I've talked with the pediatrician on base. She told me that the bones in younger children are not fully developed. The Air Force doesn't want to endanger a child by allowing them to use certain equipment," he said.

'May Mayhem' hoop tourney set for May 18

The Brooks African American Cultural Association hopes to match the excitement and competitiveness associated with 'March Madness' basketball when it hosts the inaugural 'May Mayhem' 3 on 3 hoop tournament May 18 at the fitness center.

The double elimination event will start at 11 a.m. and conclude at 1 p.m.

"It's the first time since I've been here that we've sponsored a basketball tournament," said Damion Byrd, AACAA president, who is also the event coordinator. Byrd said proceeds from the tournament will be used to support the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Fund.

The tournament is open to the first eight teams (that register), he said, noting the donation per team is \$20. Teams can have up to four players and can be either co-ed, all-female or all-male.

Games will be played half-court. "They will play (either) 13 minutes or until the first team scores 13 points," said Byrd, who is also head coach of the Brooks men's varsity basketball team. A first place trophy will be awarded to the winning team, he noted.

Teams can register by calling 536-1569 or by accessing the organization's website at www.brooks.af.mil/aaca.

— Rudy Purificato